

REMARKS

Claims 2, 4, 6-11 and 15-53 were previously pending in the application. Claim 7 is cancelled, leaving claims 2, 4, 6, 8-11 and 15-53 for consideration.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 2, 4, 6, 8-11 and 15-53 are allowed.

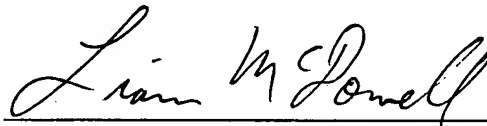
Canceling claim 7 is believed to obviate the rejection over KIMURA et al. 6,632,696.

Since the claims remaining in the application are indicated as allowed and since there are believed no outstanding formal matters, the application is believed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



Liam McDowell, Reg. No. 44,231
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

LM/lk